

# Need Project Report

Year End 2016-17



***"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat"***

***[Matthew 25:35]***

***Serving Jesus in His most distressing disguise***



***March 2017***

## Support from Supermarkets



### Considerate Contractors Scheme Local Church Food Bank Donation



Base Build and Sainsbury's organised to support the local Church in Wootton (**NEED PROJECT**) which provides not only food but everyday essentials to people in need of help.

We work with Sainsbury's, Tesco's, Morrisons, Coop, Waitrose and M&S and several smaller shops.

Gordon Hamilton, the Project Leader, started working full time for the Need Project in September 2016. This has made a real difference to our working relationships with agencies and organisations that refer people to us for help. Extracts from a recent report Gordon gave to his church, where it all started, make up the commentary in this report for the past year:

*It has been an amazing year in the life of the Need Project. I am now full time and our workload has increased to the point where we are averaging 150 food parcels per month since last August and over £1k [estimated value] of second hand furniture per month in the same period.*

*We work across Central Beds and now North Herts and we are getting busier every month with new agencies asking to use our service.*

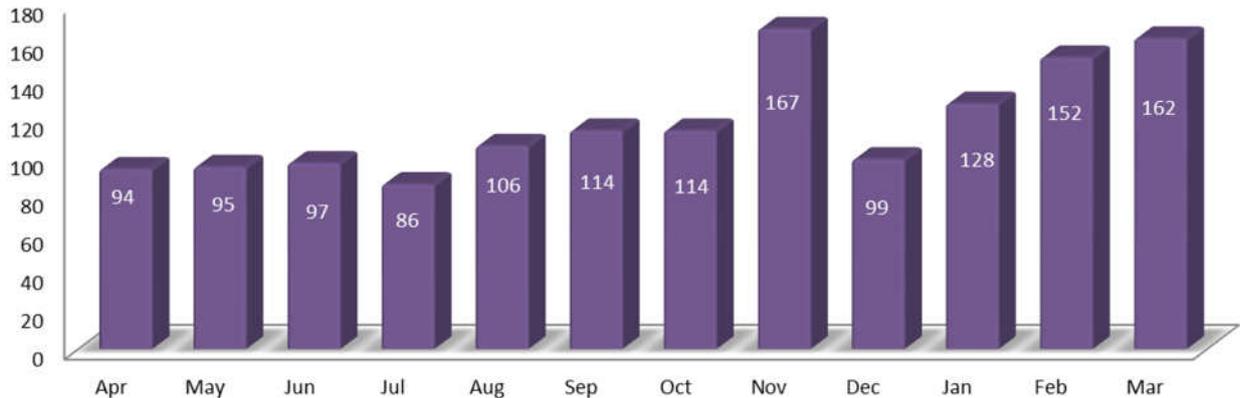
*We have had the privilege of helping with presents at Christmas and general needs at Yarlswood detention centre working with a project called "Beauty from Ashes" who minister to Muslim ladies there. Also some food has gone to Calais to the "jungle" with 'Into the Light ' ministries.*

*Christmas was a big big time for us. We were so busy as usual and provided over 400 hampers during that time along with 150 Christmas presents that made so much difference to those who received. I am particularly grateful for all the extra volunteers who gave up their time to help pick and pack and carry and set up the church in readiness for distributing the food hampers. So much work goes on behind the scenes.*

Christmas Statistics	2016	2015	Increase
Total Families	401	320	25%
Total Adults	616	482	28%
Total Children	663	485	37%
Est. Parcel Value	£ 50.00	£ 50.00	
Cost	£ 20,050.00	£ 16,000.00	25%

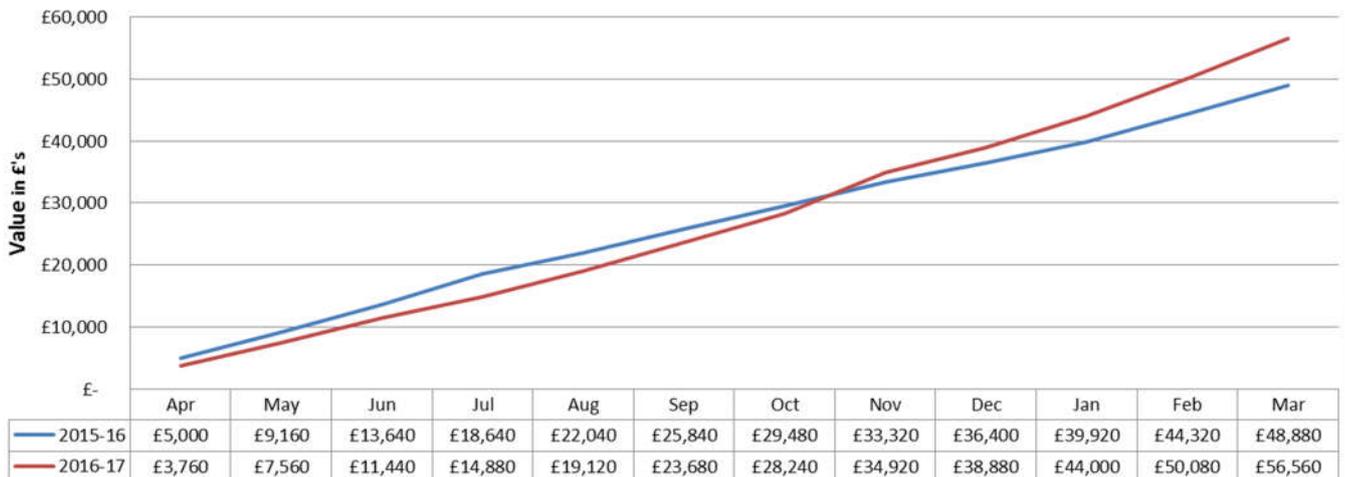
## Statistics

### Food Parcels per Month 2016-17



In addition to the parcels in December, there were 441 other Christmas food parcels.

### Cumulative Value of Food Delivered @ £40 per Parcel



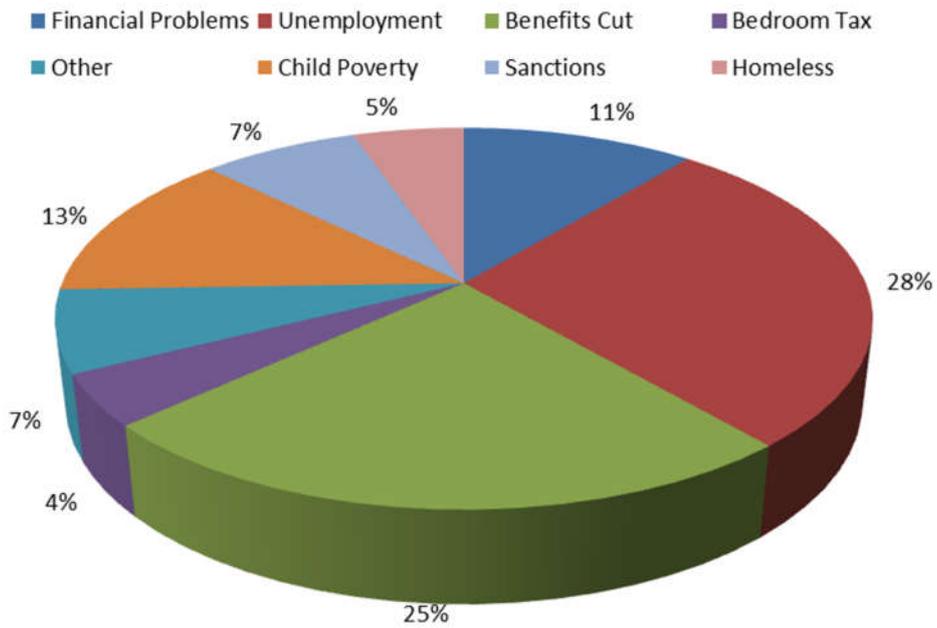
The December value does not include £20,850 for Christmas parcels.

## Adults & Children Served

Children	Age 0-4	Age 5-10	Age 11-17	Adults
<b>Totals (ytd)</b>	920	718	484	2003

Plus 656 adults and 663 children in December's Christmas parcels.

## Agency Stated Reasons for Referral



Benefits cut, withdrawn or not given and unemployment are the main causes of need. Often these two lead to the other reasons for referrals.

### *Served By Each Distribution Hub*

Hubs Summary	Total to Date	Monthly Average
Flitwick	157	13
Stotfold	391	33
Sandy	232	19
Shefford	189	16
Marston Vale	63	5
Biggleswade	142	12
Out of Area	240	20

*In addition there were over 401 hampers made up for Christmas.*

*[There are] food stores [hubs] at Sandy, Shefford, Flitwick, Stotfold, Marston Moretaine and we also keep supplied residential units in Leighton Buzzard and Sandy where we supply food for them to distribute as needed.*

*We also supply to several smaller operations like community cafes in Clifton, Shefford, Sandy, and also the refuge in Biggleswade.*

## **Furniture, Furnishings and White Goods**

In addition to food parcels, we have been busy helping those in need of furniture and other household items. What we can supply is dependant on what is donated at any one time. The total to date with conservative estimation of the second hand values is below.

Items	Totals
White Goods	38
Beds, single, double, bunk	89
Bedroom Furniture, Furnishings	42
Lounge Furniture, Furnishings	80
Misc &, Baby Equipment	40
Bedding	102
<b>Estimated Value</b>	<b>£14,320.00</b>

Items	Totals
Cookers	5
Washing Macines	13
Fridges	6
Freezers	1
Fridge/Freezers	9
Microwaves	4
Sofas, suites	23

## **Special Thanks**

*Our Volunteers.* The volunteer situation is so important to the running of the project and for that I am so grateful. The hours and hours that people put into the need project is amazing. I have said before that to name everybody involved I would probably miss someone out and wouldn't want to do that. You know who you are and more importantly the Lord knows your servant hearts and is blessed.

*Sainsbury's at Letchworth* weekly supply us with food and on top of that the staff donated 40 Easter eggs for the two refuges we support in our area.

All of the people who are involved in the need project have been given a special gift to be part of something that in its own way makes a big difference to people's lives in our local community and we should treasure it always.

I would like to thank the local Sikh community for their total support of the work we do in all they provide and their encouragement. We were recently involved through the "Kings Arms" Church in Bedford in the arrival of three Syrian refugee families in our area. It was a privilege to be asked to be part of this project and we supplied furniture and food. Also we were able to supply toys to the children.

## **There's a Cost**

We continue to seek funding to raise money for the ongoing costs of our project and value your help always.

None of this could happen without funds so we are actively seeking funds through grants and donations.

Would you consider donating something on a regular basis? If you can and are willing, please let our Administrator (Dave) know and he will tell you how to do it e-mail: [admin@theneedproject.co.uk](mailto:admin@theneedproject.co.uk) .

Lots of small monthly donations can become a big amount of funding every month. Annual or one-off donations are good too. Together we can make a difference.

## ***Our objectives***

To relieve persons in Central Bedfordshire and the surrounding area that are in poverty or financial hardship in such ways as the Trustees from time to time think fit, in particular, but not exclusively by:

1. Providing food parcels to support individuals and families who are experiencing food deprivation.
2. Providing other items to meet immediate and essential needs, as resources allow.
3. Developing other forms of support to meet immediate need and alleviate financial hardship.

## ***Our values***

We are a Christian organisation motivated by Jesus' teaching on poverty and injustice. We operate according to Christian principles of compassion, honesty, integrity, openness, kindness and care of all people, regardless of backgrounds or beliefs (or none). We are passionate about inclusion and being non-judgemental is central to what we do. We believe that everyone has the right to have food on their plate, dignity, skills, a chance to work and hope for the future.

Please pass this report on to anyone who would be interested in the work of the Need Project.  
You can contact The Need Project on:

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Website: www. <http://theneedproject.co.uk/>